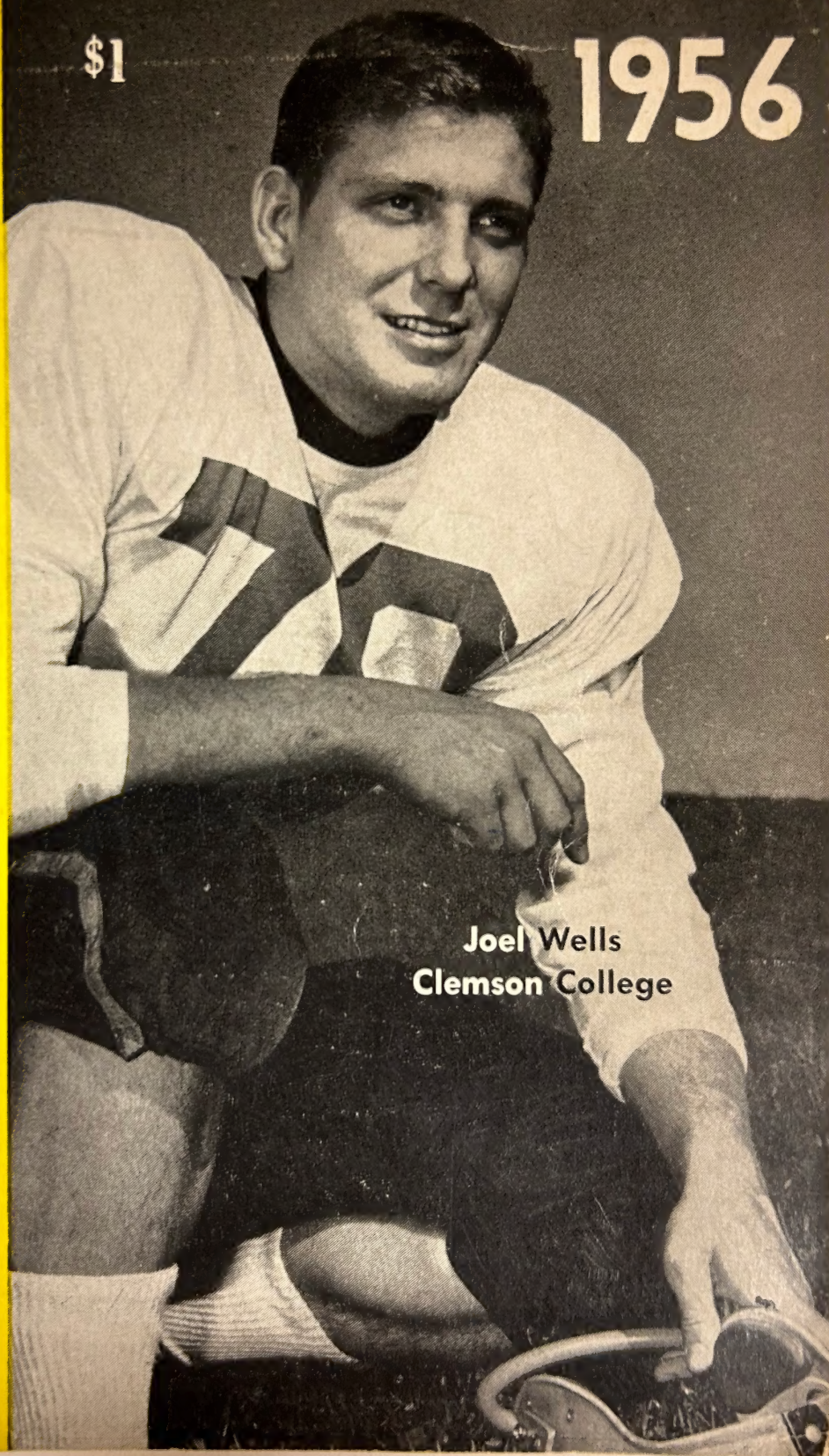


Official NCAA

FOOTBALL *Guide*

\$1

1956



Joel Wells
Clemson College

Brodie, is called as good as they come by his coaches.

This could be an explosive year in the power-packed South, but early selections must be Georgia Tech in the Southeastern, Maryland in the Atlantic Coast and West Virginia in the Southern.

At Tech, Bobby Dodd has more backs than he knows what to do with, led by quarterback Wade Mitchell, but must fill in a line spot or two.

Jim Tatum left Mont with plenty of everything at Maryland. And while West Virginia, which has all but outgrown the Southern Conference, will be without its two terrific tackles, Sam Huff and Bruce Bosley, it ought to be able to keep the situation well in hand.

But the three conferences are so loaded with fireworks that may be touched off on any given week-end, that no favorite will find it easy going.

Tennessee, as an example, could wreck a hope somewhere along the line. Duke and Georgia entertain the same thought.

The big independent, Miami of Florida, will once more be formidable.

In the Southwest, where the favorite almost never wins, defending champion Texas Christian is all ready to turn its phantom, Jim Swink, loose for another season. Then there is Texas A&M to consider, and Texas, too, which turned in a stunning performance in defeating A&M for the television audience late in the season. So if the conference race pursues its usual pattern, one of the other four teams will finish in front.

The Colorado Aggies are the choice a second time in the Skyline Conference, but here, too, the rivalry will be keener than ever. Utah, Wyoming and Denver are expected to provide the chief competition.

All in all, it has the makings of another autumn when Saturday's predictions become fodder for the wastebasket on Monday.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 1924-1955

Oklahoma was the choice of the press association polls for college football's unofficial national championship in 1955, and the Sooners replaced Michigan as runner-up to Notre Dame in the composite ratings of the past 20 years.

The Associated Press poll of sports writers was originated in 1936 and the United Press poll of college coaches has joined in the fun since 1950. Both polls represent the combined opinions of observers in all sections of the country and have come to be the most popularly recognized bases for the mythical award.

Prior to the polls, the Rissman and Knute Rockne trophies, symbolic of the national title, were awarded annually from 1924 to 1936.

The national champions for all 32 years:

1955—Oklahoma	1947—Notre Dame	1939—Texas A&M	1931—So. California
1954—Ohio St., UCLA	1946—Notre Dame	1938—T.C.U.	1930—Notre Dame
1953—Maryland	1945—Army	1937—Pittsburgh	1929—Notre Dame
1952—Michigan State	1944—Army	1936—Minnesota	1928—So. California
1951—Tennessee	1943—Notre Dame	1935—S.M.U.	1927—Illinois
1950—Oklahoma	1942—Ohio State	1934—Minnesota	1926—Stanford
1949—Notre Dame	1941—Minnesota	1933—Michigan	1925—Dartmouth
1948—Michigan	1940—Minnesota	1932—Michigan	1924—Notre Dame

NATIONAL RATINGS, 1936-1955

In a composite picture of the press association polls for the past 20 years, Notre Dame emerges as the No. 1 team by a wide margin. Counting 10 points for each first place rating, 9 for second and so on, the Irish have accumulated 103 points to 65 for second-place Oklahoma. The 20-year leaders:

1. Notre Dame . 103	5. Tennessee . . . 53	8. Mich. State . . 39	12. Georgia Tech. . 29
2. Oklahoma . . . 65	6. Ohio State . . 40	10. Alabama . . . 31	12. Maryland . . . 29
3. Michigan . . . 62	6. Minnesota . . . 40	11. California . . 30	15. So. California . 25
4. Army 54	8. U.C.L.A. . . . 39	12. Navy 29	16. Duke 24